Issuing of Railway bonds to fund conversion of Railway lines in Maharashtra

1760. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had permitted the Government of Maharashtra to sponsor and issue Railway Bonds to fund the conversion of railway lines in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra have sent any proposal to the Central Government in this regard;

(c) when was this proposal sent by Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) August, 1988.

(d) Finance Ministry has agreed in principle to the proposal. The State Government is yet to get the same cleared by the Planning Commission.

Accidents of Westland helicopters

1761. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the various accidents of Westland helicopters Government propose to review the policy of purchase of these helicopters;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Westland-30 and SA-365 N Dauphin 2 helicopters in the fleet of Pawan Hans Ltd. were selected for acquisition after techno-economic evaluation of various types of helicopters as per the procedure followed in the case of such purchases.

Future acquisition of helicopters, if any, required by Pawan Hans Limited would also be based on similar techno-economic evaluation of the available types of helicopters.

Soviet President's proposal for collective security of Asian Nations

1762. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet President Gorbachev during his recent visit to China had urged upon the Asian countries including India, to forge a collective security network and to work together to solve regional problems; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). In his speech of May 17, 1989 in Beijing, President Gorbachev reiterated and elaborated proposals earlier made by him for strengthening peace, security and stability in the Asia and Pacific region. The speech contained positive ideas which deserve careful study.

Non-aligned movement meeting at Harare

1763. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a ministerial level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement countries was held at Harare in the middle of May this year: